polarization of the separate component beams being referenced to the principal axes; and

b) a color separating prism assembly, optically aligned to receive one of the polarization component beams, the prism assembly having a plurality of color separating surfaces having tilt axes, the tilt axes of the color separating surfaces being perpendicular to the first tilt axis of the Cartesian polarizing beam splitter.

D1 cont.

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24. (Amended) The projection engine of claim 23,

a) further comprising a projection lens assembly;

b) wherein each imager is a polarization modulating reflective imager and the prism assembly is a color separating and recombining prism assembly;

c) wherein the prism assembly receives the one polarization component beam and separates the polarization component beam into a plurality of color beams;

D2

d) wherein each color beam exits through a respective exit surface and a portion of the color beam is polarization modulated and reflected by the respective imager; and

e) wherein the reflected portions of the color beams re-enter the prism assembly and are recombined into a single image beam, the image beam being directed by the Cartesian polarizing beam splitter to the projection lens assembly, wherein the projection lens assembly projects an image.

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 and 22-24 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 24 have been amended. Claim 19 has been rewritten to include features from claim 21. Claim 24 has been rewritten to correct grammatical and spelling errors. Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In response to the species election requirement dated February 27, 2001, Applicants hereby elect species B, depicted *inter alia* by FIGs. 1b and 2b. All pending claims read on the elected species.

Any questions regarding this communication should be directed to the undersigned attorney at 952-253-4110.

Respectfully submitted,

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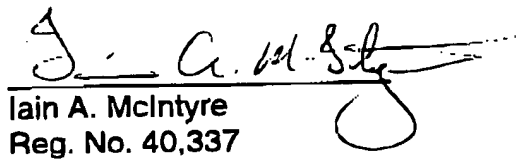
Date: March 27, 2002 By: 

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## Appendix A

### Marked Up Copy of Amended Claims

Kindly cancel claims 20 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly amend claims 19 and 24 as follows:

19. (Amended) A projection engine for displaying an image, the projection engine comprising:

a) a Cartesian polarizing beam-splitter having invariant, generally orthogonal principal axes including a first tilt axis; wherein the Cartesian polarizing beam splitter reflects a first polarization component beam of an incident beam of light and transmits a second polarization component beam, the polarization of the separate component beams being referenced to the principal axes; and

b) a color separating prism assembly, optically aligned to receive one of the polarization component beams, the prism assembly having a plurality of color separating surfaces having tilt axes, the tilt axes of the color separating surfaces being perpendicular to the first tilt axis of the Cartesian polarizing beam splitter.

24. (Amended) The projection engine of claim 23,

a) further comprising a projection lens assembly;

b) wherein each imager is a polarization modulating reflective imager and the prism assembly is a color separating and [recombinating] recombining prism assembly;

c) wherein the prism assembly receives the one polarization component beam and separates the polarization component beam into a plurality of color beams;

d) wherein each color beam exits through a respective exit surface and a portion of the color beam is polarization modulated and reflected by the respective imager; and

e) wherein the reflected portions of the color beams [reenters] re-enter the prism assembly and are recombined into a single image beam, the image beam being directed by the Cartesian polarizing beam splitter to the projection lens assembly. wherein the projection lens assembly projects an image.